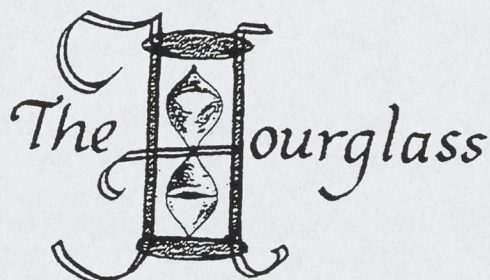


Historical Society of Palm Desert

P.O. Box 77
Palm Desert, CA 92261
(760) 346-6588



Community
Service
Collections
Archives

WINTER/SPRING 1999

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COVE COMMUNITIES EXHIBIT

An impressive display containing pictures and text about the history of the Cove Communities was developed several years ago by the Historical Society of Palm Desert. It can be seen at the Town Center Mall. The structure is 9' x 9' x 9', a sturdy, free standing, interlocking exhibit which is something of a puzzle to erect. Hundreds of people paused during the busy holiday season to study the photos and captions.



President, Dan Callahan, was assisted in assembling and putting it into place by Roger Keezer, "Holly" Hollenbeck, Bruce Hagerman and Ed Ruxton. THANKS, guys!

The exhibit is still in the mall, but it has been relocated to the lower level between the Riverside County Sheriff's substation and the entrance to Robinson-May. It will remain there through February, and possibly into March. Do plan to go early so you don't miss it.

Side pockets mounted on the exhibit contain information cards. President Callahan reported that some 600 viewers took cards during December. The good news is that none were discarded on the premises. Sue Gorniak, Marketing Director of the Palm Desert Town Center, has been most cooperative in arranging the viewing. She is pleased by the public interest in our exhibit and by the lack of litter.

COME CELEBRATE WITH US IN MAY
Who will receive the Founder's Day award this year?

In 1982 Clifford Henderson was the first recipient of the Founder's Day perpetual trophy award. This spring event is sponsored by the Historical Society of Palm Desert, and the trophy itself is on year 'round display at the Society office. It is a handsome cup which features a winged figure atop, in recognition of Cliff's many achievements in the field of aviation.

The date of the reception for an annual honoree is always as close as possible to the original date, May 15. This year, please note, it will be on Friday, May 14 at the Portola Community Center.

Past recipients who have received a plaque and listing on the perpetual trophy are: Ed Mullins, John C. Kennedy, Anne Carpenter, Bob Keedy, Don Kennedy, Evie Chevoor, Evelyn Young, Francis Morley, Lee Valdez, Jean Benson, Fay Bowie, Kermit Martin, Rheo Lawman and Dick Kelly.

Announcement never is made in advance, so the intriguing question is: WHO will be honored this year? Last year's party for Dick Kelly was a gala affair with an easel display of pictures and items representing events from Dick's illustrious career of public service.

Refreshments will be served. Invitations will be sent; please expect yours early in May and plan to be with us. Guests are welcome. It is always fun to have something ---and someone --- to celebrate. Remember, May 14.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Evonne Riddell
 William Messick
 Bill & Marian Seidler
 Larry K. Roberts

Magda K. Mastrogiovanni
 Lois D. Bradstreet
 Carole Birnkrant
 Jim & Shirley McClellan

Dr. Edwin Stempler
 Kay McCune
 Stanley Sniff, Jr.
 Dona D. Mara

Gifts and/or Loans of Historical Material
GREATLY appreciated!

Alana Townsend	Street map originally donated by Indio Hospital. Palm Village is shown, soprobably mid-sixties.
Milt Page	Eldorado pictures
Lou Kuehner	Photos of children's groups from Lou's time as Social Director of Shadow Mountain, and from "Leisure Lost" the business Lou successfully operated for many years.
Bob Perryman	Early Sandpiper pictures (4 photos)
Genevieve Burke	Information about Bill & Dot Beck, including a Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Becks for their work on Palm Desert Christmas decorations in 1972. Daily News flood items from 1981-82
William E. Bonnar Associates	Four archival quality aerial maps of Palm Desert, 30" x 40", three from 1950 and one from 1959.
John Rios, Battalion Chief, Cove Communities Riverside County Fire Department and C.D.F.	Yellow fire helmet

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

One look at Virginia Folkers' biography tells you why she received the 1998 "Volunteer of the Year" award from the Historical Society. She has been an achiever since birth in 1936 to parents, Harold and Marcella Diegel of Detroit. She was the eldest of four, followed by two sisters and a brother. Her father she describes as a mechanical genius, and her mother was a homemaker with a decidedly artistic bent.

When Virginia Rose "Ginny" was six, the family moved to Utica, a truck-gardening community. Raising vegetables, fruits and flowers was truly a family business and each member did his/her part. The work ethic became a way of life.

Ginny's education in parochial and public schools was a very positive experience. An honor student, she turned down a scholarship to the University of Michigan to take a secretarial position at General Motors Technical Center.

Ginny had met Dick Folkers at a church festival in 1954 and they kept in touch during his time in the army, working for Chrysler Missile, and then studying civil engineering at Tri-State University in Indiana. The City of Detroit hired him

before graduation. Ginny gave up her job at GM when they were married in May of 1960.

Busy years ensued. Richard Jr. was born in 1961, followed by Charles at Christmas time in 1962. A move to Pontiac, where Dick was employed by the Oakland County Road Commission, preceded the birth of their third son, David, in 1967.

Housekeeping and mothering kept Ginny busy for all those growing-up years. Still she found time for community service, such as P.T.A and library work. She initiated a Christmas bazaar as a fund raiser for their church, which became an annual event. Also, she took a course in upholstery and set up a business in the family basement. Later she studied interior design so as to be able to advise customers with more confidence. Dick, too, was busy parenting, earning the family livelihood, and putting an addition on their home. Simultaneously, he was earning a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Wayne State University.

Family vacations involved a lot of tent camping, Ginny said. Their station wagon was always available for hauling and chauffeuring, with the range of activities covering all school and summer sports, scouting, fishing, caddying, etc.

Family sinus problems and allergies in Michigan caused Dick to think of his army days in sunny California. He started job hunting and in 1975 began working for the City of Sacramento. Life here was productive and satisfying. At a neighborhood bible study, Ginny had a born-again experience and gained a whole new focus for her life. Now activities included coordinating bible studies, becoming members of a prayer group and conducting a church service for a nursing home.

In 1983 Dick was promoted to Sacramento's public works operation. One day while browsing through professional magazines, his eye fell on an item advertising a position of Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City of Palm Desert. He and Ginny considered this opportunity. Did they really want to leave the new job, a great Christian ministry, their eldest son and his little family and their many wonderful friends?

VOLUNTEER (cont'd.)

Spiritual guidance and support pointed them toward Palm Desert the cross on the hill was confirmation. In summer 1985 they began renovating and enlarging the old desert house they had purchased in an up-scale neighborhood. When that project was complete, they bought the empty lot next door and started construction of their dream home. In March of 1988, Ginny says, "We made the shortest move in our family's history right next door." She also spent a number of years serving as secretary on the Palm Desert Property Owners Association board.

Ginny had taken a writing course and she volunteered to help out at the Historical Society. This turned out to be, in her words, "a much bigger project than I bargained for curator of the archives." It now contains thousands of articles on a wide variety of subjects. Ginny hopes that in 1999 the subject listings can be committed to a comprehensive computer program so that it will be more readily available to those who want to delve into Palm Desert's history.

Travel continues to be a rich part of the Folkers' experience. In 1992 Dick had a sabbatical to Palm Desert's sister city, Gisborne, New Zealand. During the four week visit, Ginny picked up an understanding of preservation work from their museum people. Through their church, Southwest Community Church in Palm Desert, they took part in an unforgettable 1994 tour of Israel, with stops in Rome and Copenhagen. Over the years they have visited most of the U.S. and much of Canada. Dick is president-elect of Palm Desert Rotary, so he and Ginny will attend the international conference in Singapore in June 1999. Their wish list for the future includes Europe, London and Alaska.

Meantime all three sons have married and the grandchild count is threeJennifer 15, Jacqueline 14, and Sarah 2. Bud is a rental business manager in Sacramento, Chuck is a building contractor in Rancho Mirage, and Dave is an optometrist in the Bay area.

In November of 1997, Ginny's faith and optimism were tested by a nerve attacking virus called Guillian Barre syndrome. She says, "Thanks to my praying friends and good care at Eisenhower Medical Center, I have not been relegated to a wheelchair." She goes on to say, "The disease has slowed me down considerably, but I am currently learning to play the piano, have aspirations to paint portraits, and I am taking a Christian counseling course."

Talk about faith, courage and determination! The Unsinkable Molly Brown had nothing on our buoyant Ginny! Thanks a million, Ginny, for the wonderful contributions you have made and continue to make to ensure a firm foundation for the Palm Desert Historical Society. Much of its service to the future will rest on the work you are doing. We couldn't be more grateful.

IN MEMORIAM

John Filer Outcault

Dorothy L. "Dot" Beck

Lucyann Davitt

Edith "Sam" Ostler

Thor Romer

Memorial gifts have been received for:

Irma Marshall and Ed Benson
John Outcault, Lucyann Davitt
and Dot Beck

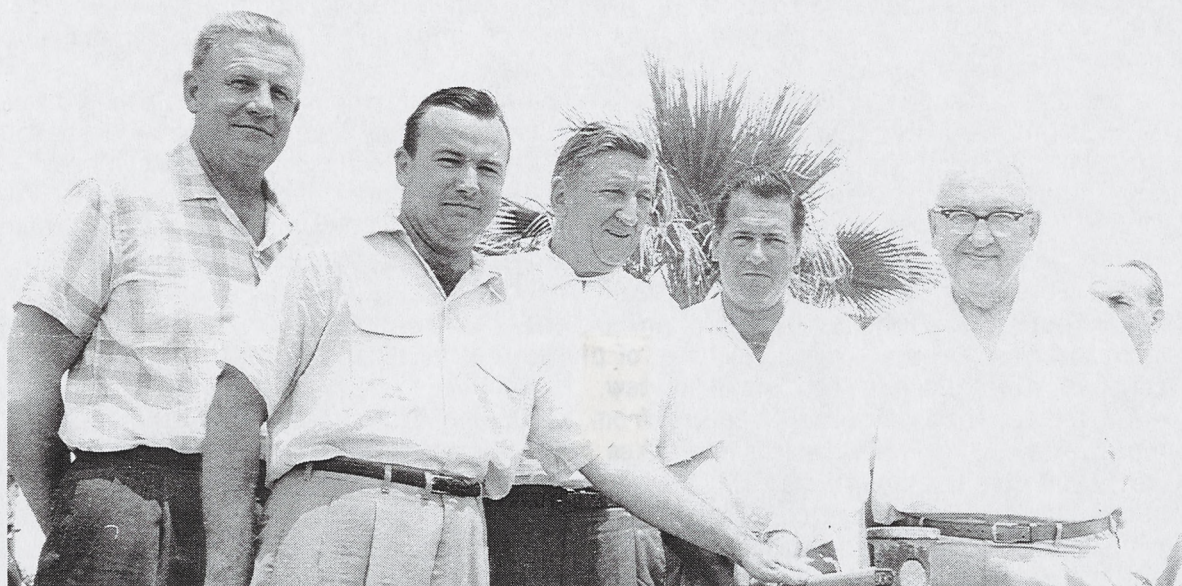
- from -

Dan and B. J. Callahan

- from -

Edwin and Theda Lundquist

Note: Many senior Society members live here without nearby relatives. It has been suggested that a bequest to the Historical Society of Palm Desert placed in a will or trust would remind family members that their loved ones were members.



Can you help us identify the man on the right wearing glasses? Chamber of Commerce photo of 1950-something. Others in the photo are, from left: Bob Simpson, John Outcault, Ted Smith and Hal Kapp.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ARCHIVES COMMISSION

What was formerly a Committee was upgraded last year to the status of a Commission by the County Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this body is to identify, collect, preserve, arrange and describe records of historical significance relevant to the County of Riverside and County government, and to educate the public as to its use. It is deemed important to collect and interpret these records in the context of the overall growth and development of the County.

The Commission operates under the auspices of the Riverside County Clerk and Recorder's Office. Two members of the Historical Society of Palm Desert presently serve on this 11-member commission. Jan Holmlund had been a member of the committee which preceded the establishment of the commission. Dan Callahan, president of our Society, is a recently appointed commissioner. Commissioners represent various districts of the county. Chuck Wilson of District 1 is the chairman. Meetings rotate around the county; the January meeting was held at the Larson Justice Center in Indio.

At present there is little to offer to the public, but a seminar, "Where's the History of Riverside County?" for interested organizations and individuals will be held on March 20 at the Riverside County Schools Conference Center. Attendance will be by invitation and pre-registration. Heritage tours are also being considered. For more information, please call Ron Harrington, Commission Secretary at (909) 486-7062.

------(tear off)-----

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL DOCENTS

I wish to become a docent: _____

	(name)	(phone)
Preferences:	() Monday () Tuesday () Thursday	
	() 10:00 - 12:30 <u>OR</u> () 12:30 - 3:00	
	() each week <u>OR</u> () every other week	

I wish to be a substitute docent: () yes () no

Off the Scanner

Valley resident for over 50 years, Florence Maxwell will be moving to Roseville, CA at the end of March to be near her daughter, Annette. Marian Miller will assume membership duties which Florence executed so faithfully for the Society.

After 23 years on the City's Parks & Recreation Commission, Doloris Driskel was recently named to the Joslyn Cove Communities Senior Center board. She is the Society's liaison to the City, Mrs. Santa in the golf cart parade, and influenced the placing of the bronze "One on One" in front of the historic fire station.

Pres. Callahan spoke to a group at the Senior Center's Tuesday morning Koffee Klatch about Society work. We welcome all volunteers (see tear-off on page 5.....mail it to H. S. of Palm Desert, P. O. Box 77, Palm Desert, CA 92261.)

The Society open-house during Palm Desert's 25th anniversary attracted some interesting visitors. Jean Nicholson, daughter of pioneer realtor Lucille Armstrong, and friend Dick Wells were interested in the history on v

Jim McClellan, fire station manager 1966-1974, and his wife Shirley visited from Apple Valley. Jim is now retired and has a collection of old wood signs, clocks and plaques. The years they lived in the fire house with their children were some of their happiest, Shirley says.

Jean Martin is back to her own vibrant self. She brought us Bob Wilmeth, who is currently serving as our Board treasurer.

As the Hourglass goes to print, Mary Safe advises that our Spring Luncheon will be on May 5th at Desert Falls Country Club -- good! You'll hear more about it in April. Mark your calendars for these two May events, May 5 Luncheon and May 14 Founder's Day. Ah, spring.....when dates bloom like wild flowers.....and where are they, by the way? We need more snow on the mountains. Meantime, please come see us at headquarters. There has been some major rearranging, to show new gifts.

Hourglass Editor,
Theda Lundquist